

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated June 2, 2005, claims 1, 2, 5 17 and 20 are amended. Claims 1-9 and 17-23 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano et al. (USPN 6,031,941) in view of Arakawa et al. (USPN 5,822,450). Arakawa et al. is relied upon for disclosing the feature of performing framing, a feature lacking in Yano et al. The Examiner contends that in light of the disclosure of Arakawa et al., it would have been obvious to modify the Yano method to include this feature.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*:

generating image data of a three-dimensional shape model in accordance with first three-dimensional data inputted from a part of the object, the image corresponding to the shape of the first three-dimensional data;

changing a posture of the image as the first three-dimensional data for specifying unmeasured portions;

displaying on the monitor screen the image of the three-dimensional shape model as a guide image for framing;

performing a framing so that the guide image is overlapped on an image of the object that corresponds to the guide image;

performing shooting the object after the framing in order to obtain second three-dimensional data; and

performing registration of the first three dimensional data and the second three-dimensional data by converting coordinates of the first three-dimensional data and the second three-dimensional data then pasting the first three-dimensional data and the second three-dimensional data together so that resulting data are new three-dimensional data.

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The added subject matter is supported by the description at page 17, line 19+ and page 21, line 13+.

Independent claims 2, 5, 17 and 20 are similarly amended.

In accordance with the amended claims, first measurement data are displayed with being overlapped on an object, which enables a second measurement at an optimum position. In other words, it is possible to obtain second measurement data in which registration is performed in advance. As a result, a subsequent pasting operation of the first and second measurement data can be performed fast with a high degree of precision without imposing a burden on a processor. In addition, there is minimization of the amounts of overlapping portions of the first and second measurement data. Accordingly, when the entire circumference of an object is measured, for example, the total number of measurements can be reduced, which enables three-dimensional shape measurement with high efficiency.

The features recited in amended independent claims 1, 2, 5, 17 and 20 are not disclosed or suggested in Yano et al. and Arakawa et al., considered alone or in combination. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 2, 5, 17 and 20, as well as dependent claims 3, 4, 6-9, 18-19 and 21-23, are patentable over Yano et al. and Arakawa et al., and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding

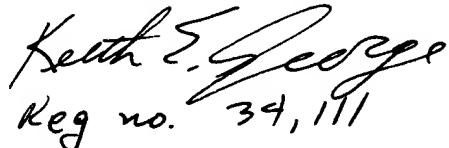
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issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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